

## SERENGETI TREK



Chaplain candidate 2nd Lt. Justin Woods talks to youth attendees of this year's vacation Bible study. More than 30 children attended the five-day event. The theme of the study was "Serengeti Trek: Where kids are wild about God." See related story on page 11

## Air Force supports successful launch

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, Fla. — The 45th Space Wing at Patrick Air Force Base provided flawless support for NASA's successful launch of Space Shuttle Discovery on July 26, officials said. This was the shuttle's first flight since the Columbia tragedy on Feb. 1, 2003.

The wing's Department of Defense Manned Spaceflight Support Office joined with U.S. Strategic Command and North American Aerospace Defense/U.S. Northern Command to field a large cadre of search and recovery and security forces.

Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons enforced a temporary no-fly zone over the shuttle's launch pad while other forces stood by at various locations, ready to respond in the event of a contingency. The standby rescue and recovery forces were not needed and the Eastern Range's vast network of radar, telemetry, meteorological, optical and communications instrumentation assisted a picture-perfect launch.

"Congratulations to the entire NASA, DOD and government contractor launch team," said Col. Mark Owen, 45th SW commander. "The DOD is proud of its contributions to assuring this safe and successful launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery."

"We've got a great partnership with NASA," he said. "This launch validates the more than two years of hard work we've all invested in getting the shuttle back into orbit. This is a great day not only for our space program, but for the nation."

The crewmembers on this mission are delivering supplies to the International Space Station and replacing critical components on the orbiting outpost. The crew will also test and evaluate new space shuttle flight safety, which includes new inspection and repair techniques.

# Computer program to help aircrews gauge DCS risk

**By Rudy Purificato**  
311th Human Systems Wing

A highly specialized computer program designed to help aircrews assess and plan for high altitude, long duration missions may soon be implemented Air Force-wide as a result of groundbreaking work by Brooks City-Base research physiologists.

Called the Altitude Decompression Risk Assessment Computation, ADRAC for short, this computer software program is the culmination of 15 years of research conducted by the Air Force Research Laboratory's

Human Effectiveness Directorate.

"It's a tool for mission planning that predicts the risks of decompression sickness," said Dr. Andrew Pilmanis, principal research physiologist for AFRL's Biodynamics and Protection Division. He explained that this state-of-the-art scientific tool predicts the percentage of risk to aircrews of being exposed to conditions favorable for inducing decompression sickness at various altitudes. No such tool had existed before, although scientists have known for decades that decompression sickness can occur, without pre-breathing oxy-

gen, at altitudes above 20,000 feet.

Decompression sickness, also known as aeroembolism, is characterized by debilitating and potentially deadly symptoms that include respiratory problems resulting in uncontrollable choking, vision and hearing loss, numbness in the extremities, temporary paralysis and, in severe cases, unconsciousness. While these symptoms eventually dissipate, aviators who have experienced severe decompression sickness have had to be treated with hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

The impetus for ADRAC was to provide mission planners with

an accurate tool in which to avoid operational situations or scenarios where decompression sickness episodes could compromise a mission, Dr. Pilmanis explained. ADRAC is expected to be particularly useful for Air Force special operations missions such as High Altitude Low Opening (HALO) parachute jumps from extreme altitudes as well as for U-2 and F-22 flights.

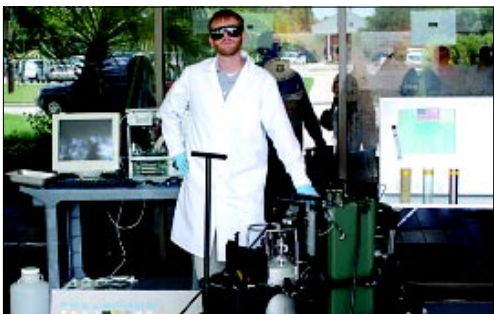
Historically, decompression sickness has primarily plagued aircrews during long duration bombing missions. Dr. John Stephens Gray, a Randolph Field research physiologist with the Army Air Force School of Avia-

tion Medicine from 1942-45, was among the earliest aviation medicine pioneers to predict the incidence of decompression sickness.

In 1942 he discovered that the incidence of decompression sickness was drastically reduced in aircrew members who pre-breathed 100 percent oxygen for 45 minutes prior to a mission. However, decompression sickness prevention has since been limited to clinical measures.

The advent of ADRAC may prove to be a revolutionary tool suitable for all types of missions.

See DCS risk/Page 3



Decontamination technology — Page 6

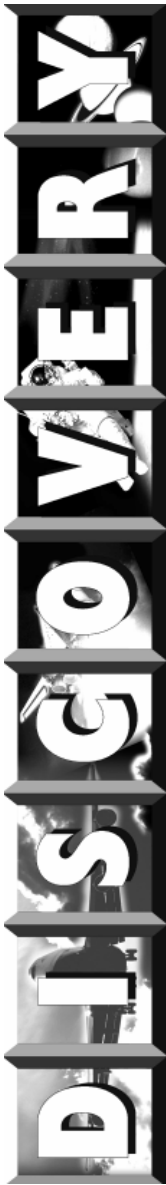


Air Force's MTL of the year — Page 12



Intramural softball champs — Page 15





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## What do you do when no one is watching?

By Special Agent Jason Engholm

Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Det. 246

When you think of the expectations you have for your organization, superiors, peers and subordinates, what comes to mind? What core belief, beyond any other, are you adamant on to the last stand?

Of course, many of us would be able to rattle off the Air Force core values without a thought or extra breath. However, maybe there is something even deeper, yet more simplistic, than those three bold statements. Something like, "Do the right thing, even when no one is watching."

Several years ago while working at an office in Europe, I heard a new Air Force Office of Special Investigations region commander explain his expectations for OSI agents in Europe. During his speech, he methodically returned to his basic standpoint of above all else, "Do the right thing."

No matter if it was during a witness interview, while conducting threat assessments in Latvia or performing background investigation checks in Germany, he always said, "Do the right thing." I, along with many others who heard that commander speak, have taken that bit of professional and personal advice to heart. I now feel that subtle, yet powerful, phrase is the key to a strong ethical code.

## 'Give me your stink!'

(Editor's note: This is the third in a series of articles highlighting the best board game alternatives for classic yet tired games like *Monopoly*, *Clue* and *Risk*.)

By Kendahl Johnson

Discovery editor

When I was younger and actually enjoyed *Monopoly* (before I knew better), the appeal of the game was the negotiation aspect. I simply enjoyed wheelin' and dealin', trying to convert my single properties into the best possible monopoly. I still enjoy trading, and so it's no secret that I thoroughly enjoy a great game of *Bohnanza*.

*Bohnanza* is another German import. It's an inexpensive card game where players collect and plant bean cards. Players receive gold coins when they harvest their rows of beans. The game ends when the deck is exhausted for a third time and the person with the most gold coins is the winner.

It sounds like a fairly simple game, and it is, but there are certain restrictions upon a player that add complexity. First, a player is dealt five cards. These cards cannot be rearranged and must be played in order. Second, a player's turn begins by planting the first bean card in his hand. A player cannot have more than two bean rows at one time so it is important to always be able to plant that first card or the player may have to harvest before the beans are "ready" and receive no gold coins.

Next, the player flips two cards from the draw pile face up. He must either trade these cards or plant them. To get rid of the beans the player doesn't want to plant, he must trade or donate them to other players. The turn ends when the player draws three additional bean cards, and all players then plant cards received in trades.

**Rules:** The rules are fairly straight forward and easy to understand. The problem comes in enforcing the rules. I have introduced this game to many groups of players and I always end up feeling like the Rules Nazi. One of the biggest problems is not being able to arrange cards in your hand. This is counter-intuitive for most card players and many will do it absentmindedly. However, this rule is imperative to the enjoyment of the game and must be enforced. Another culprit comes when harvesting rows. If a player has two rows and one row has a single planted bean and one has more, the player must harvest the larger row. After a round or so, everyone generally is able to grasp the rules. I played a game with my nine-year-old nephew and after awhile, even he wasn't breaking the rules of the game.

**Players:** The game is really more enjoyable with more players. There is a two-player variation, but why bother? It plays best with 4-7 players. It's nice to have a game

So, how do you follow this code and make the right choices and actions? Is there a magic formula or an instruction that outlines how a person should make decisions and act? No, unfortunately there is not. We must depend on our training, personal integrity and commitment to each other.

To abide by this expectation, we have to remain true to our training and cannot cut corners, bend the rules or stretch the truth. For example, at a recent meeting, I witnessed a foreign national counterpart decline alcohol refreshments because his commander — hundreds of miles away — issued an order that prohibited his nation's personnel from consuming alcohol while in theater.

Even though others were able to indulge, and there was little chance anyone would find out, my friend stuck to his personal obligation to do the right thing. I respect my friend for his courage and commitment to duty.

In addition to staying true to the rules of our profession, we must insist on the integrity to take the path of the challenging right over the simple wrong. In the end, an honorable life is more rewarding than an easy one.

The last portion of this expectation is to have the yearning and commitment to watch out for each other. Simple things such as replenishing paper towels in the bathrooms and engaging each other in conversations about life can accomplish this.

that plays well with seven players that doesn't last forever. (One possible variation is to play with a Boggle timer. This would not only speed up the game, but would also add an element of urgency to the trading and help move slower players along.)

**Negotiation:** The negotiation aspect of this game is what really sets it apart from other cards games. The game really shines with a group of outgoing players who enjoy trading. I have never really liked games where you do nothing but wait when it isn't your turn. In this game, everyone is involved every turn making deals and trading or donating cards.

**Strategy:** This is a light game. Since players must play their cards in order, proper planning is an important element, but the winner is usually the one who has been the best negotiator. Someone looking for a brain-burner or highly strategic game will probably be disappointed with *Bohnanza*. Players with good memories might have an advantage. When a player harvests a row and receives gold coins, they remove one card for each coin received. These cards are placed face down in front of that player and are out of play. It's a good idea not to collect beans where there are many cards out of play of that bean type.

**Competitiveness:** Although there are some opportunities to be devious, I have yet to play in a cutthroat game. Perhaps it's the cute illustrations that just puts everyone in a good mood. There are times where it is in a player's best interest to donate cards to other players. If he can't trade a face up card, he must plant it, which may mean harvesting a developing row of beans prematurely. So there are opportunities to really stick it to the current player by not accepting any donation or trade offers, but it very rarely happens. Players invariably accept donated cards; I guess it feels good when someone gives you something that you really want for free. Yet there is always that conflict of wanting to get rid of cards, yet not help the competition. Perhaps the best of negotiators can do both.

Bean farming has never been so much fun. I have played with a dozen people who all have different taste in games and they have all enjoyed *Bohnanza*. And although each game plays differently, I always try to collect the stink beans, because it is oddly satisfying to yell to a player, "Give me your stink!"





# Battlelab technicians develop solutions for warfighters

By Staff Sgt. Melissa Koskovich  
366th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

With sand whipping across your face and sweat dripping down your forehead, you squint through the scope at the enemy target.

“The third building on the left,” you shout into the radio. A garbled transmission is returned. Closing your eyes, you take a deep breath and hope the pilot heard you. The explosion rings through the desert.

Developing smarter technology for warfighters on the front lines is the focus of the Air Warfare Battlelab. The 25-person think tank tackles problems by combining off-the-shelf technology with innovative ideas, in hopes of finding a lighter, leaner and more lethal way of accomplishing the mission.

The battlelab here is one of seven, Air Force wide. Since their creation in 1997, they have pushed to move ideas into the field quicker than traditional research and development programs allow.

“Our main focus is to improve how we fight and win wars,” said Col. Ernest Parrott, AWB commander. “We aim to help individuals who find themselves at the pointy end of the spear — keeping them safe and making their jobs easier.”

Battlelab technicians from different Air Force specialties tackle problems, both large and small, with the goal of developing ideas or solutions within 18 months. Their diverse career backgrounds afford a creative environment giving them the ability to envision projects such as the stabilized portable optical target receiver.

“(The receiver), developed in an attempt to ensure weapons were truly hitting their mark, combines existing tech-



Photo by John Marshall

**(From left) Staff Sgts. Erik Roberts and Eric Jones conduct a field test for the stabilized portable optical target receiver as Neil Huber and John Harwick look on. Battlelab technology often requires field testing before implementation.**

nology into a pair of binocular-like goggles. They allow ground forces to see laser signatures and ensure the correct targets are being painted by aircrews,” Colonel Parrott said. “After calling in air support to a target location, troops on scene can look through (the target receiver) and ensure the correct target is being engaged.”

Inventions like this are invaluable in preventing friendly fire incidents and ensuring the highest degree of accuracy in military strike operations, he said.

Other battlelab technology is also earning some limelight.

“Vein Viewer is another idea recently developed by our (team),” said John Marshall, battlelab team member. “This invention combines night-vision goggle technology with needs of medical patients in the field. It allows medics to literally see the vascular system thru the skin.”

This technology proves useful in both civilian and military applications, solving problems ranging from starting intravenous lines more easily to assisting medics during bumpy medical evacuation operations. Vein Viewer is currently being tested at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base.

With such a rapid turnaround, suggestions and

new information on technology are always welcomed.

People interested in submitting ideas or technology for consideration can go online to [www.mountainhome.af.mil/AWB](http://www.mountainhome.af.mil/AWB).

“The problems brought to us are like puzzles,” Colonel Parrott said. “We have most of it put together, but sometimes we’re missing a piece. That piece is out there somewhere.”

As the ring of the explosion fades, you rise to your feet and wipe the gritty sweat from your brow. In front of you lay the ruins of the building, exactly as planned. The pilot heard you. You saw it; the laser signature dancing across the target. You breathe a sigh of relief, pack up your equipment and move on to the next location. Your mind is at ease. Thanks to battlelab technology, you are on the cutting edge.

## Gauging DCS threat

from page 1

“The cabin altitude range of 20,000-25,000 feet is frequented by contemporary Air Force aircraft such as the unpressurized T-37. Pressurized aircraft which must depressurize to accomplish their mission at these altitudes include AC-130U gunships and C-141 and C-130 transports,” said Dr. James Webb, a Brooks high altitude physiologist who worked with Dr. Pilmanis to develop ADRAC. “Exposures up to 25,000 feet cabin altitude will continue to be of op-

erational importance. The F-22 and the Eurofighter 2000 are designed to be capable of sustained cruise at altitudes up to at least 60,000 feet.”

He went on to say that “at 60,000 feet, their 5-psid cockpit pressurization systems will expose pilots to approximately 22,500 feet inside the cockpit. Under these conditions, a potential exists for unplanned decompression to 60,000 feet if the cockpit pressurization system fails due to malfunction or damage.”

ENTER Discovery'S  
Fantasy Football Challenge  
see page 15 for details



A  
LOOK  
at  
BROOKS

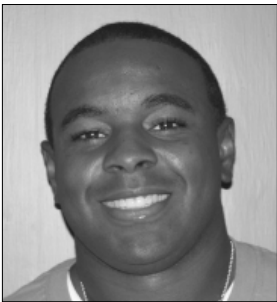
What is your  
dream summer  
vacation?



**Tech Sgt. Amanda Roberts**  
**433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing**  
Fishing with my husband  
and my dog on a lake  
observing God's beautiful  
creation.



**Airman 1st Class**  
**Chaunce Foster**  
**68<sup>th</sup> IOS**  
Going to Brazil and  
lounging on the beach.



**Airman Frank Hayden**  
**311<sup>th</sup> MSG**  
Going to Jamaica for a  
couple of weeks.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Sarah Landis**  
**HPSP**  
Traveling through Africa  
doing mission work for  
different tribes.



**Barbara Jimenez**  
**311<sup>th</sup> MSG**  
Relaxing on the beaches  
of Hawaii.

Visit the Discovery online at [www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery](http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery)





## CHANGE OF COMMAND



Col. Mark Donahue (right) assumed command of the Human Systems Group, as Col. Bruce Litchfield, commander of the Aeronautical Systems Center presents him the organization's flag at a change of command ceremony at Hangar 9 July 19. Former commander Col. Albert Burnett relinquished command.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.*



# HSG scientific panel interested in new decontamination technologies

**Rudy Purificato**

*311th Human Systems Wing*

New advanced decontamination technologies designed to quickly eradicate biological and chemical agents caused by accidents or terrorist acts were evaluated last week during the Joint Platform Interior Decontamination Technology Demonstration Week hosted by the Human Systems Group.

Held for the first time at Brooks City-Base July 19-22, a panel of scientific experts from several federal agencies, academia and industry learned about the capabilities of six decontamination technologies that could support Department of Defense requirements.

Maj. Parrish Galloway, JPID Systems Manager for HSG, said technologies the panel examined are designed to meet JPID objectives for safely and effectively decontaminating the interiors of vehicles, ships, aircraft and fixed site facilities that have been exposed to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear warfare agents.

Maj. Galloway said JPID criteria involve providing combatant commanders with decontamination capabilities that are cost effective and less logistically burdensome.

Six companies conducted presentations of their technologies, including St. Louis, Mo.-based Clean Earth Technologies, the consortium of BAE Systems from Minneapolis, Minn., and Odenwald-Werke Rittersbach from Germany, San Diego-based Titan Corporation, the consortium of Northrop Grumman Security Systems of

Linthicum, Md., and Bioquell from the U.K., Steris Corporation from Mentor, Ohio and NanoScale Materials from Manhattan, Kansas.

Dr. Jeffry Golden, company president of Clean Earth Technologies, conducted a demonstration of the Electrostatic Decontamination System that is pending Environmental Protection Agency approval as a surface sterilizer of biological agents.

Designed for both emergency first responders and warfighters, this modular device employs ‘point-shoot-and-kill’ technology using a sprayer and intense ultraviolet light as part of a photosensitizer process.

Dr. Golden said the chemical solution applied to contaminated surfaces is activated by UV light. The technology uses environmentally safe but toxic hydroxyl free radicals to destroy, within minutes, microbial agents such as E.coli bacteria, anthrax spores and the MS-2 virus that causes symptoms similar to foot-and-mouth disease. The system is also designed to destroy nerve and blister chemical agents. “The combined process (even) kills DNA,” Dr. Golden said, noting the system is particularly effective for infectious disease control remediation. The system has been field tested for its reliability and effectiveness at Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah.

Representatives from the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force, Auburn University, representing the Federal Aeronautics Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, the United Kingdom and U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison’s office participated in the forum.



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart*

**With the help of a technician, Dr. Jeffry Golden, president of Clean Earth Technologies, demonstrates the capabilities of the Electrostatic Decontamination System.**



BRIG. GEN. TOM TRAVIS  
311th Human Systems  
Wing commander

# ACTION LINE

## 536-2222

The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play. If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222**. Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

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311th Mission Support Group—		Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
Safety.....	536-2111	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Housing Office.....	533-5905	Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks City-Base Marketing and	
59th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Development Office.....	536-5366
Military Personnel.....	536-1845		



### Things to do around Brooks

SWIMMING POOL  
Bldg. 821, 536-2636

The pool is now open and available for base use. Open swim hours are from 1 to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends and holidays. Pool passes are \$10 each with a \$50 maximum per family. Swimmers can purchase a day pass for \$1.50. Passes may be purchased at the fitness center or pool. The pool is also available for group parties, which can be scheduled through the head lifeguard.

BROOKS CLUB  
Bldg. 204, 536-3782

**Poker Tournament** — Get in on the latest craze at the Brooks Club during the four-week Air Force Materiel Command Texas Hold ‘Em base tournament. The tournament consists of three weeks of open play with a championship round held the fourth week. The top two club winners from each

week of open play compete for the honor of base champion during the final round. Base champions will be invited to participate in the AFMC Texas Hold ‘Em Command Championship held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Oct. 29. In the case a base champion cannot participate in the AFMC Tournament an alternate may be sent. Please contact Letty Martinez at 536-3444 or Cindy Floyd at 536-3782 for additional information or stop by Bldgs. 714/204 and pick up a brochure.

The Boar’s Head Pub offers an extensive menu Tuesday through Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. Food items from appetizers to steaks are offered daily. The Boom Burger and New York Strip Steak are favorites of our regular guests. Make plans to visit the pub for dinner this week.

OUTDOOR RECREATION  
Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

**Fishing expedition** - A twilight deep sea fishing Trip to Port Aransas is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 27. Our bus departs from Sidney’s at 3 p.m. and arrives in Port Aransas at 7 p.m. The Scat Cat and Wharf Cat depart port at 8 p.m. for deep sea fishing. The bus returns to Brooks City-Base at 2 a.m. Cost for the trip is \$40 per person and the deadline for signing up is Aug. 19. Stop by early and sign-up to ensure a spot on the boat. Also, stop by and say “hello” to Larry Flores who is now the new manager for Outdoor Recreation. Larry formerly worked at the Fitness Center and as Youth Sports Director.

## FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

CAR BUYING STRATEGIES

Aug. 1 — 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

Find out how to research, obtain free information, budget, compare financing vs. leasing, and negotiate the best deal.

SPONSOR TRAINING

Aug. 9 — 10 - 11 a.m., Bldg. 537

In accordance with AFI 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend. Learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

SMOOTH MOVE

Feb. 15 — 12:30 - 3:15 p.m., Bldg. 537

PCSing? Hear briefings from TMO, Legal, Clinic, Finance, Housing, and the Family Support Center and ask questions. Open to all active duty mem-

bers, DoD civilians and spouses. Overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about OCONUS PCS by staying after for the PCS Overseas class.

SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT

Aug. 17 — 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

This is a mandatory class for active military personnel who are retiring or separating within 120 days. Topics covered are Pre-Separation, Veterans Benefits, Survivors Benefit Plans, TRICARE, and Financial Planning for Transition. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

PREDEPLOYMENT BRIEFINGS

Aug. 30 — 1 - 2 p.m., Bldg. 537

Mandatory briefings address issues that pertain to deployed service members and their families. Appointments necessary.

Call 536-2444 to register





# ASC delivers new aircraft to Colombian government

by 1st Lt. Bob Everdeen

*Aeronautical Systems Center/PA*

Aeronautical Systems Center here delivered a state-of-the-art Boeing 737-700 aircraft to the Colombian government July 2 after several years of close collaboration between the United States and Colombia.

The aircraft, a Boeing Business Jet, will be used to transport Colombia’s president, executive branch officials and other VIPs. It replaces a Fokker 28 - that had been in service for more than 35 years - vastly improving reliability, durability and ease of maintenance for long distance travel.

“Mobility Systems Wing personnel at Aeronautical Systems Center wrote, negotiated and awarded the contract to PATS Aircraft, LLC and provided initial payment within two-and-a-half business days over the Christmas holiday in order to ensure the aggressive delivery schedule Colombia required was maintained,” said Mr. Ken Crain, Colombian Security Assistance Program Manager at ASC’s Mobility Systems Wing, Commercial Derivatives Systems Squadron.

“Only with a collaborative effort between the Mobility Systems Wing, Secretary of the Air Force Office of International Affairs, Air Force Security Assistance Center, Defense Security Cooperation Agency and Defense Finance and Accounting Service could this record contract schedule have occurred,” he said. “Continued cooperation and constant communication between these organizations

and the contractor made possible the on-time delivery of this aircraft.”

Maj. Stevan Kaighen, Security Assistance and Foreign Military Sales chief for the U.S. Embassy in Colombia, agrees.

“The program was an extremely successful endeavor between the U.S. Embassy, U.S. Military Group Colombia and the Colombian Ministry of Defense,” the major said. “The project epitomizes the ability of our forces to work together on large projects with great success.”

The aircraft’s mission can be compared to that of Air Force One - it’s called Colombian Presidential Aircraft FAC 0001, and will carry members of the executive branch of government abroad to conduct foreign relations activities and, most importantly according to Major Kaighen, for the executive branch to get to outlying regions of the country to support the people of Colombia.

The delivery took place at DeCrane Aircraft System Integration Group, PATS Aircraft LLC, in Georgetown, Del., six months after signing a contract to carry out the modifications.

“It’s very unusual for an aircraft interior modification and VIP paint process to take only six months,” said Mr. Brian Lapp, ASC’s Colombian Foreign Military Sales Configuration manager.

The pilots who flew the aircraft from Delaware to Bogotá, Colombia, called the trip a “dream ride” after the approximately five-hour flight. They said the ride was “smooth, quiet and beautiful.”





# AMIGO means more than being a friend for AFCEE engineer

By Gil Dominguez

Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence Public Affairs

“Amigo” means friend in Spanish, and that’s what AFCEE environmental engineer Kay Grosinske has been to more than 150 foreign military students thousands of miles away from their homes.

Since January 2004, she has been a volunteer with the American Members of International Goodwill to Others – AMIGO – a program run by the Defense Language Institute’s English Language Center at Lackland AFB, Texas.

Foreign students typically spend from two months to two years training in the United States.

The AMIGO program is a totally volunteer effort whose purpose is to help international military students adjust to the American environment and their new surroundings while they learn the English language.

It’s similar in many ways to the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program, except that the students being mentored are adult military members from around the world.

Ms. Grosinske started off sponsoring two students, 1st Lt. Denis Kyirma of Kazakhstan and Maj. Mohammed Al-Sawafi of Oman.

“I initially thought doing something twice a month with the students would be a bit difficult, given my already full schedule,” she said.

But soon the list of people she was sponsoring started growing and she found herself spending more and more of her free time on the Defense Language Institute campus.

“I became ‘known’ as I walked around DLI,” Ms. Grosinske said with amusement. “Students came up to me and asked me to be their AMIGO. I took as many as I could and started recruiting friends to join the program.”

After a while she had so many students that wanted to be

mentored by her that she had to create a spreadsheet just to keep track of all of them.

Most of her first new students were Kazakhs, friends of Lieutenant Kyirma.

“Denis had great friends, and they became my friends,” said Ms. Grosinske. “Mohammed was more reserved, but we worked hard on his English.”

Her two original charges have since returned to their respective countries.

Ms. Grosinske recalled them fondly, particularly the lieutenant from the former Soviet republic.

“Denis became as close to me as my own much younger brother,” said Ms. Grosinske. “I flew him up to my family’s cottage in northern Wisconsin to fish and visit with my family during the time that he was in follow-on training. He will always be my brother.”

In the past year and a half she has sponsored students from 32 countries in every part of the world, from South America to the Middle East. She has helped students pass their English Language Comprehension Level test, known as the ECL. Failure means being sent back to their countries instead of heading for follow-on training.

In addition to being a surrogate big sister to the young military people, Ms. Grosinske serves as tutor, tourist guide, chauffeur and even babysitter at times.

“I have been taking students everywhere, literally to every free or cheap event offered in and around San Antonio,” she said.

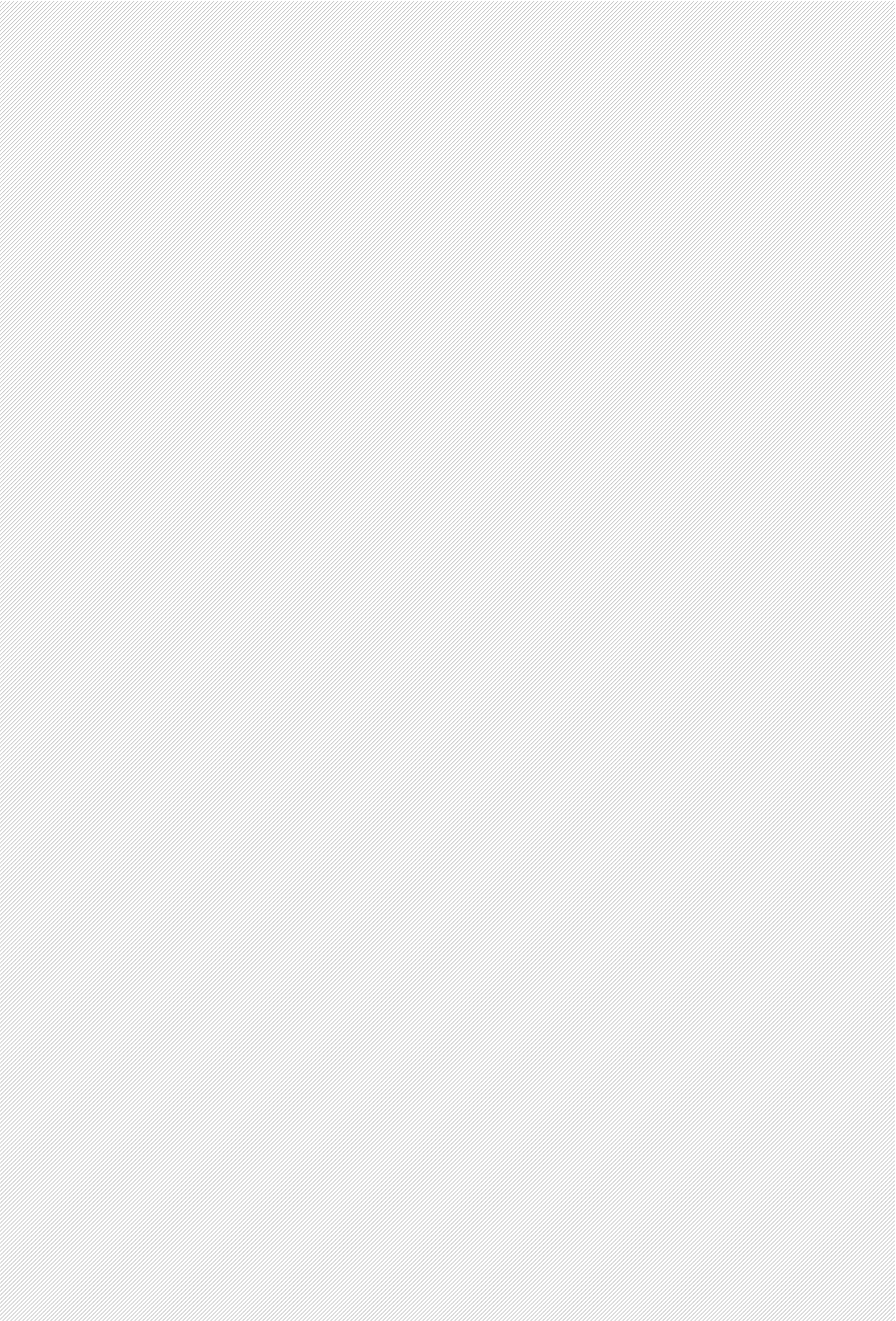
The AFCEE employee and her students have tried a little bit of everything that is San Antonio, from river tubing to taking Latin dance lessons.

“The best feeling I have had is when the most adorable two-and-a-half year old Iraqi girl squeals ‘Kay!’ and runs up to me and jumps in my arms every time she sees me,” said Ms. Grosinske.



Photo by Gil Dominguez

AFCEE environmental engineer Kay Grosinske (second from left) attends the recent graduation of Georgian army Col. Davit Apsiatouri (center) from the Defense Language Institute’s English Language Center at Lackland AFB, Texas. Joining her were (from left) Capt. Constantin Spinu of the Romanian Air Force; Jan Staten, director of the American Members of International Goodwill to Others, or AMIGO, program; and 1st Lt. Constantin Balan, also of the Romanian Air Force.







# Brooks Chapel provides ‘wild’ time for youth at Bible study



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

Chaplain candidate 2nd Lt. Justin Woods spent a week working with youth at this year’s vacation Bible study. The theme of the event was “Serengeti Trek: Where kids are wild about God.”

By Elizabeth Castillo  
*Discovery writer*

Brooks Chapel provided a “wild” time for children to learn about biblical tales through crafts, games, stories and snacks.

This year’s vacation bible study had a theme of “Serengeti Trek: Where kids are wild about God.” More than 30 children, ages four to 11, participated in a five-day trek, where they were treated to three hour days filled with fun activities provided by base chapel volunteers. Each day brought a different moralistic story from the bible with crafts, games and activities related to the tales.

“This may be the only opportunity for kids to hear about the word of God,” said Jo Ann Lujan, the chapel’s vacation bible school coordinator.

Adorned with a campsite motif, the church sanctuary was the starting point for the children’s Serengeti Trek. Each morning the staffers held a 15-minute pep rally in the chapel sanctuary. Children participated in three pledges – a pledge to the United States flag, a bible pledge and a pledge to honor the Christian flag.

Immediately following the pledges, children participated in a “sing and play roar” where they were led by volunteer Tina Sanders, who taught them song and dance routines to follow the story told for the day.

Eleven-year-old Kimberly Pierce participated in Brooks’

vacation bible school last year, and enjoyed it so much that she became a volunteer for the Serengeti Trek.

“I thought it was really fun doing all the activities and learning all the songs and I loved it so much I wanted to become a volunteer” said Kimberly. “You get to learn more about the Lord and make new friends.”

The children were split up into separate groups with each group containing anywhere from eight to 15 children. They followed cardboard animal tracks through the hallways of the chapel as they journeyed to their next destination where they spent 20 minutes in five different stations learning stories and participating in related activities.

During their “Bible Expedition,” volunteers told the tales of the Bible to children sitting around a “campfire” of white Christmas lights, red tinsel and crumpled paper stones. This is where the children learned the stories that set the theme for their day of exploration.

“Maybe one day when they grow up, they will remember what they learned in vacation bible school and use it as a positive in their life,” said Mrs. Lujan.

The adventurers were treated to a “Chadder Adventure Theater” in which they watched a DVD featuring a cartoon chipmunk. They then had a question and answer session with the volunteers who handed out workbooks for the children to complete.

Airman 1st Class Chaunce Foster of 68th IOS was a station leader for the adventure theater and enjoyed volunteering for the Serengeti Trek.

“I enjoy interacting with kids,” said Airman Foster. “I went to bible school when I was younger so I try to learn from my experiences and offer that to the kids.”

Many Airmen from the 68th IOS participated in this year’s bible school as volunteers, helping as station leaders and playing outside with the kids in their outdoor “wild games” station.

In “wild games,” the children wrote on the sidewalk with chalk in order to become more familiar with their group members and to learn more about the story they had learned for the day. They also played games such as “Duck, Duck, Goose” and “Red Light, Green Light.”

Refreshments were essential in order to keep the explorers fueled for fun, and they found them in the “Watering Hole Snacks” station. There, the children created their own snacks that they were able to take with them on their journey through the paper-treed wilderness of the chapel. The children munched on trail mix, fruit cocktail, a lion made

from a rice cake and a giraffe made of string cheese and bagels.

The children were also responsible for making crafts in the “Critter crafts” station where they painted their own personalized vacation bible school t-shirts, made prayer beads, a crane from a paper cup and a picture frame. Photos were taken of the children throughout the trek, and they were able to put them in a frame to remember their journey.

“When the parents keep the crafts, the kids will see them and remember what they have learned and they can apply it later

on,” said Mrs. Lujan.

Vacation bible school was designed to entertain children as they learn about the stories found in the bible. Through activities and crafts, kids were able to learn lessons and morals that can influence their choices throughout their lives.

“Children have all sorts of outside influences that are not necessarily positive” said Toni Covarrubias, a mother whose son participated in the Serengeti Trek. “Sometimes this is the best way to spread the word of Jesus Christ to young children.”



Photo by Elizabeth Castillo

A vacation Bible study volunteer works with children at an outdoor activity. More than 30 children attended this year’s week-long event.

## WE HAVE LIFTOFF



Photo by Kendahl Johnson

A group of Brooks’ Camp Challenger participants watch as the space shuttle Discovery lifts off at the Kennedy Space Center. Fourteen campers spend five days at Brooks studying space. Today they will fly a Voyage to Mars.





Brooks  
Personality  
PROFILE



TIMKO



**FULL NAME/RANK:**

*Tech. Sgt. Michael G. Timko II*

**DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:**

*Military Training Flight Chief/  
USAFSAM*

**IN SIMPLE TERMS,  
WHAT DO YOU DO?:**

*The most important part of my job is to mentor and guide young Airmen while they are tech school students. This is accomplished through military training which includes drill and ceremonies, room inspections, flight formations, and open ranks inspections. The ultimate goal is to provide the leadership and mentorship to give the Airmen the tools to be proud, productive, and professional Airmen once they reach their first duty station.*

**BIRTHDAY:**

*Nov. 9, 1970*

**HOMETOWN:**

*Brazil, Indiana*

**FAMILY STATUS:**

*Married with four very energetic boys*

**PERSONAL MOTTO:**

*"Always give 100 percent!"*

**INSPIRATIONS:**

*My wife and my children*

**HOBBIES:**

*Boating, camping, and traveling*

**I JOINED CIVIL SERVICE  
BECAUSE:**

*My father insisted I join the Air Force instead of going college. His belief was to have the military pay for my education while serving my country. It took me 15 years to earn my degree and I've had an outstanding career. Thanks Dad!*

**FIVE-YEAR GOAL:**

*Being promoted and hopefully finishing my master's degree*

**ULTIMATE GOAL:**

*Live life to the fullest with my wife and hopefully raise four children to be generous and productive citizens.*

**GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:**

*Making my family (especially my parents) proud and being able to provide for my family without the many struggles that so many families endure.*

# Military leader trains future leaders

By Kendahl Johnson

Discovery editor

Being a successful leader is challenging. It requires a mix of several attributes, including ambition, dedication and humility. Although not everyone is capable of being a good leader, one Brooks sergeant is proving that he has what it takes.

Three years ago, Tech. Sgt. Michael Timko came to Brooks City-Base on a special duty assignment. He was hired to be one of just a few military training leaders, working with the students at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. He is currently the military training flight chief for the school.

In no time at all, he was being noticed for his outstanding leadership and recently, he became the first MTL outside of the Air Education and Training Command to win the 2004 Military Training Leader of the Year Award for the Air Force. Although appreciative of the award, the humble sergeant said winning the award was a group effort.

"I might be the torch carrier for this award," said Sergeant Timko. "I might be the one to represent USAFSAM and Brooks City-Base until the end of the year. But it was truly a team effort, starting with my partner, Staff Sgt. Jason McCormack, down to everyone at USAFSAM. Everybody cares about everybody over there. The mentoring I've received and leadership has been tremendous."

Sergeant Timko got his first push towards the military from his father, who was enlisted in the Air Force. Although his father only served for four years, it was an impressionable four years. "I saw the opportunities that he had while serving his country during Vietnam. He wanted me to experience those."

And so his father planted the seeds of joining the Air Force, and those seeds were continually nourished throughout his youth growing up in Brazil, Ind. "My father never talked much about me going to college. He always wanted me to join the service and serve my country and get my education through what the Air Force had to offer. So all through my early childhood it was known that I would join the Air Force."

Sergeant Timko enlisted in the Air Force October 1989, entering with a guaranteed position as a security policeman. His first duty assignment was overseas, at Mildenhall Air Base, England. Next, he went to Minot Air Force Base, S.D., to work as a security policeman in the missile field. Then in 1995 he had the opportunity to cross train into radiology. He then was

stationed at Wilford Hall Medical Center, where he worked for six years as a radiologist.

It was then that he learned of the opportunity at Brooks – a special duty assignment as a military training leader at USAFSAM. He decided to apply. "The Air Force has provided a lot of opportunities for me through the years. I decided it was time to give back. Mentoring these young students and helping them solve some of their problems at such a young stage in their careers is what I could do to contribute back."

Becoming an MTL was a decision Sergeant Timko has never regretted. "This job has probably been my most rewarding job in my 15 years in the Air Force," Sergeant Timko said. "The Air Force has given me and my family a lot of opportunities. I enjoy sharing the opportunities and experiences and knowledge and some of the wisdom I've gained throughout the years."

"I get to interact with the young troops and mentor them and get them ready for their first duty assignment. Right now the students are in such controlled environment, being tech school Airmen. I help them know that once tech school is over and once they go on to be a permanent party member and they are contributing to the mission at a different level than they are right now. So many doors and opportunities

open every day."

When he isn't mentoring students, the sergeant is boating, camping or just spending time with his family – his wife and four sons. He said that he does a good job of switching from being an MTL to going home to being a dad and a husband, but that it can be difficult sometimes.

"My oldest son is 14 and the youngest student here is 18. That's only a four year difference," Sergeant Timko said. "A lot of problems I see these students have with personal issues are some of those same problems I see at home." But generally he is able to leave his work at home, adding with a grin that his wife often reminds him that she isn't one of his students.

As for his career in the military, he hopes to eventually promote to the rank of chief. He finished his bachelor's degree last fall in occupational therapy. When this duty assignment ends, he will could go back into his career field or go on to be a first sergeant.

Until then, he will continue to enjoy his work as MTL. "I truly enjoy what I am doing; I would do it forever," he said. "I have never been burnt out. Something new goes on everyday. Students always have new concerns or problems they need help with. I don't think anyone could ever have enough mentoring."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

At a wing staff meeting, Eric Stephens, deputy director of the 311th Human Systems Wing, recognizes Tech. Sgt. Michael Timko for winning the Air Force Military Training Leader of the Year award for 2004.





# AN AEROSPACE MEDICINE SERIES

## ON THE CUTTING EDGE

# Aviation science pioneers sacrifice to help advance AF technology

(Editor's note: This is Part 4 of a comprehensive series that focuses on the enormous impact that Air Force vision and ingenuity has had in the development of lifesaving scientific medical advances and innovations whose legacy continues to benefit America's military and civilian community.)

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

They did not suffer fools gladly, those who feared not the hazards that plagued aviators as powered flight soared to new heights. As men and women of aviation science, their singular purpose to make the skies safe for mankind came at an unimaginable cost.

Sacrifice, perseverance and courage did not guarantee them anything, other than knowing that by putting their lives in peril they could advance scientific knowledge. In so doing, they helped build the foundation for Air Force technological successes that have saved countless lives.

Aviation medicine's focus during the 1930s was to further understanding of the dynamics of flight, with respect to physiological impact. The advent of B-17 bombers in 1935, which climbed to 30,000 feet at speeds faster than the era's fighters, provided the impetus for aviation medical pioneers to develop solutions to aircrew protection at higher altitudes.

Future Air Force Surgeon General Dr. Harry Armstrong led the way in aviator survival research as director of the Physiological Research Laboratory at Wright Field, Ohio. This facility

waged an unrelenting campaign, in concert with the School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Field, Texas, to meet the challenges of flight's two primary issues: high altitude and acceleration.

His stratospheric flying studies, conducted at great physical cost, produced many groundbreaking discoveries. Among them were the physiological effects of chronic altitude sickness called anoxia, and aeroembolism, known today as decompression sickness. These maladies cause debilitating fatigue and affects hearing, vision and coordination.

"Aircrews literally were disabled by pain. Symptoms included 'the chokes,' vision loss, numbness, paralysis and unconsciousness," said Dr. James Webb when describing decompression sickness that occurs at 20,000 feet.

The former Brooks City-Base high altitude physiologist praised Dr. Armstrong for his pioneering work that advanced knowledge of flight's physiological problems. Dr. Armstrong, who conducted many high altitude studies without oxygen mask protection, contributed to new knowledge about oxygen toxicity and carbon dioxide poisoning (asphyxia).

His work also led to enhanced safety standards. In News-

week's aviation medicine retrospective published April 2, 1951, the magazine observes, "Capt. Armstrong has been able to determine the broader limits of human endurance. His experiments have confirmed the military and civilian safe flight ceiling of 15,000 feet without the use of oxygen. Above that ceiling, airline travel is now possible only in pressurized cabins."

By World War II, Charles Lindbergh was sacrificing his physical well-being for aviation medicine. As a high altitude guinea pig at the Aeromedical Unit for Research in Aviation Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., Lindbergh advocated better high altitude equipment. In 1942 when Lindbergh conducted these War Department studies, the Wright Field lab had produced the first pressure breathing mask for operations above 40,000 feet.

"Lindbergh hoped to advance the practice of high altitude test flying. With new planes reaching altitudes over 40,000 feet, aviation warfare encountered unexplored medical problems, particularly hypoxia – inadequate oxygenation of the blood," writes A. Scott Berg in his Lindbergh biography.

Berg observes, "The prevailing opinion among flying personnel in 1942 was that you could not train your senses to become aware of the hypoxic condition in time to take conscious action to overcome it. Lindbergh challenged that supposition."

He did so quite dramatically. Berg writes, "Inside the chamber, measuring temperature changes against alertness, he performed numerous tests, simulating parachute jumps from high altitude. More than once he strained himself to unconsciousness. He determined the Army's emergency oxygen equipment was inadequate."

Lindbergh's research had a profound impact on future Air



U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine laboratory technicians (left) approach a B-29 crew at Randolph Field in 1951 to test their blood for "bomber fatigue."

Force operations and training. His recommendations for using emergency bailout oxygen equipment became part of aviator physiological training that had been inaugurated the year before through a Wright Field lab initiative. This lab also had established Army Air Corps design standards for fighters and bombers that better mitigated the potential for explosive decompression. This potentially deadly phenomenon wreaked aircrew havoc when airframe structural failure or enemy fire compromised aircraft pressurization.

Meanwhile, the School of Aviation Medicine's Dr. John Gray, and Dr. Joseph Webb, a College of Medicine research fellow at the University of Cincinnati's Kettering Laboratory, contributed to decompression sickness research through their aircrew exercise, oxygen pre-breathing and straining movement regimens to counter aeroembolism.

No such measures or protocols existed for aviators above 60,000 feet where dissolved nitrogen in blood begins to boil. Air Force fighter pilot Joe Kittinger, however, accomplished an amazing feat when he proved that avia-

tors can survive if forced to bail out at levels used today in special operations' High Altitude Low Opening (HALO) jumps.

On Aug. 16, 1960, Kittinger became the first parachutist to attain sonic speed without an aircraft when he jumped from a balloon near Holloman AFB, N.M. He fell for a record 102,800 feet (16 and a half miles) as part of Project Man High. "The purpose was not to go up and establish a world's record for high altitude jumping, the purpose was to gather data on how to protect a man on how to escape," he said in a 1978 oral history interview. His death-defying leap led to the development of high altitude aircrew escape systems and partial pressure suit improvements.

"So the approach that I took...was that I would jump with nothing more than aircrew members would jump with if they had to jump from that altitude. So rather than use some experimental piece of equipment, I selected the MC-3 partial pressure suit to demonstrate to aircrew members that we gave them good equipment, that I had faith in, and would be willing to go up to 100,000 feet to test."



Courtesy Photos

A high altitude chamber flight monitor scribbles "I feel fine" on a chalkboard during an altitude sickness demonstration at Randolph Field in the 1940s.



USAFSAM volunteers experience the shock and discomfort of explosive decompression during an altitude chamber demonstration.



# Training foreign forces in Air Force special operations

By Capt. Tom Montgomery  
*Air Force Special Operations Command PA*

The 6th Special Operations Squadron here is the only unit in the U.S. military with a wartime mission to assess, train, advise and assist foreign aviation forces. The squadron’s Airmen are constantly operating in the most dangerous corners of the world where terrorists, warlords and criminals thrive.

In these environments, the air commandos in the 6th SOS train foreign allies to use and sustain air power.

“Our ability to train and advise foreign aviation forces has more long-term, strategic relevance in the war on terrorism and insurgency than direct tactical actions by United States forces,” said Jerry Klingaman, squadron director of strategy and plans. “We offer a strategy of military enablement, and that’s crucial to our current national security posture.”

The 6th SOS prepares for this task with

advanced training. Upon acceptance to the squadron, it takes an Airman nearly a year of training to become mission qualified.

The unit teaches foreign forces to maintain, fly and fight in myriad aircraft. Some of the aircraft they are proficient in are Russian and the wording on the gauges use Cyrillic characters.

Equally important, the squadron’s Airmen have annual language training. Training also includes advanced weapons skills and instruction covering regional and political issues.

The post-Cold War world has made it imperative for the United States to develop overseas partnerships and realign its forces to meet emerging threats. The U.S. will also need to rely more on the ability of allies to defend themselves and assist in fighting terrorists.

U.S. Special Operations Command has been tasked as the lead command for planning the war on terrorism. As such, Air Force Special Operations Command is the air component for this challenge and is developing more capabilities to accomplish these missions. There is recent guidance to significantly increase the size of the 6th SOS which currently has more than 30 Air Force job specialties represented in a unit comprising about 100 Airmen.

The squadron’s Airmen recently returned from a mission in North Africa where they taught improved and specialized tactics and techniques. The training these air forces receive is critical to keep their ground forces resupplied and combat-ready.

As terrorist groups, bandits, and rebels have exploited the region as a safe haven, North Africa presents a serious challenge for the Airmen. The Sahara and Pan Sahel regions span across an area as large as the continental U.S. where human existence is barely possible with 130-degree temperatures and bone-dry deserts. It is the perfect place for a terrorist to hide, and the hardest place for less-developed governments to find and engage the enemy.

“It’s not easy to keep the ground troops resupplied via convoy vehicles in the region because if the bandits or land mines don’t get you, the heat will. So, we teach them to use air power,” said a mission commander. Special operations Airmen’s names are not released for security reasons.

The lieutenant colonel, who speaks French, led a team that taught advanced fixed and rotary wing tactics in a C-130 Hercules and an Mi-17. In North Africa, the people speak French, Arabic and tribal languages.

“When we got the pilots ready and they began to fly supplies into austere landing strips, we were heroes to their army guys,” the colonel said. “And, when it came time to leave the country, the government wanted us to stay.”

The squadron is aligned to accomplish its mission worldwide, and Airmen are assigned to a flight where their regional and language abilities will be useful.



*U.S. Air Force photo*  
**A 6th Special Operations Squadron adviser and a Philippine air force range security team conduct medical evacuation procedures during a combined training exercise here. The 6th SOS is from Hurlburt Field, Fla.**





# MSG wins base softball crown

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

From start to finish, the Mission Support Group played like the champions they are, winning the base intramural softball crown in style July 14.

Seeded first in the single-elimination tournament, MSG (7-1) played with confidence, determination and a collective sense of destiny, handily defeating the Human Systems Group 13-6 to cap a near-perfect season.

It's the first time that MSG has won the league and base intramural softball titles in the same year. For the second year in a row, HSG has lost in the base championship game. MSG's victory also ended the dynastic record run of the combined Air Force Research Laboratory/Air Force Institute for Occupational Health team that had won the last eight consecutive base intramural softball championships.

"These guys battled all year. I'm proud of them," said the game's winning pitcher, MSG's player-coach Don 'Woody' Wooden.

MSG had advanced to the title contest after beating the second-seeded 68th Information Operations Squadron's 'A' squad. HSG (5-2) earned a trip to the championship game by defeating the U.S. Army Medical Research Detachment and 68th IOS 'B' teams.



Mission Support Group — Base Champs

Wooden stymied HSG's potent offense early, using his patented knuckleball and curve in tossing three scoreless innings of one-hit ball. Meanwhile, his club took the lead they would not relinquish with a four-run first inning.

HSG's right-hander Jeff Eden, however, settled down after a rough first inning by using an effective knuckleball of his own. He struck out two batters looking, while limiting MSG to eight hits over the first four frames. Eden's pitching enabled his team to close the gap to one run when they mounted a four-run, fifth inning comeback.

Ahead 7-6, MSG would not be denied their moment in the blazing Texas sun. Wooden's squad broke the game open with a seven-run rally in the home half of the fifth, with the pitcher delivering the biggest blow — a two-run triple.

Adding greatly to MSG's triumph was the sparkling defensive play of centerfielder Frank Hayden. His twisting, back-handed catches of flies that were headed to the outfield fence reminded baseball fans in the crowd of Minnesota Twins centerfielder Torii Hunter or Hall of Famer Willie Mays in his prime.

"He was fantastic on (catching) balls that he had been beat on the day before against the 68th IOS," his coach said.

Hayden apparently learned from his previous day's miscues when he had misjudged fly balls by coming in on them as they flew passed him.

By making adjustments in his approach to flies, Hayden didn't miss catching any during the biggest game of the post season. He accounted for a half-dozen outs that included a few dazzling plays with a high degree of difficulty. His performance was consistent with how MSG played overall: with passion, focus and a will to win.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

The Mission Support Group scored four first-inning runs en route to a 13-6 victory over the Human Systems Group in the Brooks City-Base intramural softball championship.

## Editor issues fantasy football challenge

As the editor of Discovery, I felt I owed it to my sports heritage to continue in a growing tradition of issuing sports-related challenges to our readers. We issued a Super Bowl Challenge and a College Bowl Game Challenge; both challenges had several participants. With the NFL season nearly upon us, I feel it is time to issue a new challenge — a fantasy football challenge

Participants must be available for a live draft — date, time and place to be determined. Although the league itself will be online, there is no other way to draft players except live and in person. That's when the trash talking begins and it usually never lets up until the season ends.

There will be trash talk. It's part of fantasy football and all in good fun. Yet

someone invariably takes the game too seriously and feelings get hurt. Since I intend to wipe the floor with any and all who accept the challenge, those that have trouble in defeat should consider carefully before accepting. Also, I will be publishing league results, commentary and analysis on a regular bases in our sports page.

The league's name is Discovery Challenge. It will follow the default rules set by Yahoo. To view the rules, log into [football.fantasysports.yahoo.com/f1](http://football.fantasysports.yahoo.com/f1). The league ID is No. 26722. There is no cost to join. If you are interested in accepting this Fantasy Football Challenge and joining the milieu, send an email to [kendahl.johnson@brooks.af.mil](mailto:kendahl.johnson@brooks.af.mil). Space is limited, and the first to apply will fill the league.

— Kendahl Johnson

# Brooks baseball flourished with pros 60 years ago

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

For many of them who were professional baseball players before America entered World War II, playing on the Brooks Field diamond nicknamed "Little Siberia" was as far away from the Major Leagues as one could get. Yet, they thrived here as members of the Brooks post team called the Ganders as they made the best of a difficult situation while serving our nation during wartime.

Sergeant Carl Kott, who had played 14 years as a hard-hitting infielder in the Texas League, was Brooks Ganders' manager from 1943 to 1945. During those years, he had assembled a powerful squad composed of several former pro players who were serving here in the Army Air Corps.

At the start of the 1945 Army League season, Kott said in a Brooks Field Observer newspaper interview describing his talented ball club, "I'm not so sure about my own chances of making the team." His prediction did not come true, but by June he was reassigned. However, he left a club that had dominated Army baseball during the war, and a legacy of excellence for future Brooks teams to emulate.

One of Kott's All-Star pitchers was Dick Midkiff, who before joining the

Army had pitched in the Major Leagues for the Boston Bees. That team changed its name to the Boston Braves in 1941 and eventually became the Milwaukee and later Atlanta Braves.

Another Brooks Field member on the Army League All-Star team was slick-fielding infielder Ed Kazak, who in 1942 had been a second baseman for the St. Louis Cardinals' minor league Houston club. Kazak, a paratrooper, was the leading hitter on the Brooks Ganders in 1943 with a .479 batting average and 30 Runs Batted In.

Kazak, Midkiff and Kott made the Army League All-Star team in 1943-44. The Army League was composed of the Randolph Field Ramblers, Stinson Field Pioneers, Hondo (Air Field) Navigators, Kelly War Workers, Kelly Post, Normoyle Tractors and the San Antonio Army Air Corps Center team.

On June 7, 1943, the Army All-Stars played the Waco Flying School team at San Antonio's historic Tech Field, located on the southside. The Waco club was loaded with former pro players, including its manager and former Detroit Tigers player Lt. Birdie Tebbetts. Tebbetts would eventually manage the Cleveland Indians from 1963-66.

By 1945, the Brooks team's stranglehold on the Army League as a perennial powerhouse began to slip. By the time Lt.



Courtesy photo

Lieutenant Ralph Morcroft (center) replaced former professional baseball player Carl Kott as manager of the Brooks Ganders post baseball team.

Ralph Morcroft had replaced Kott as manager, the Ganders had fallen out of first with a 12-7 record. The Brooks Field Observer reported, "Brooks suffered three set-backs during the week in its race for the baseball championship of the Army League, dropping from first place

to a tie for third." Midkiff had lost one of those games, giving up just two unearned runs. A tough loss to be sure, but in an Army League game it was nothing for him to be ashamed about since many opponents were pro players wearing Army uniforms.